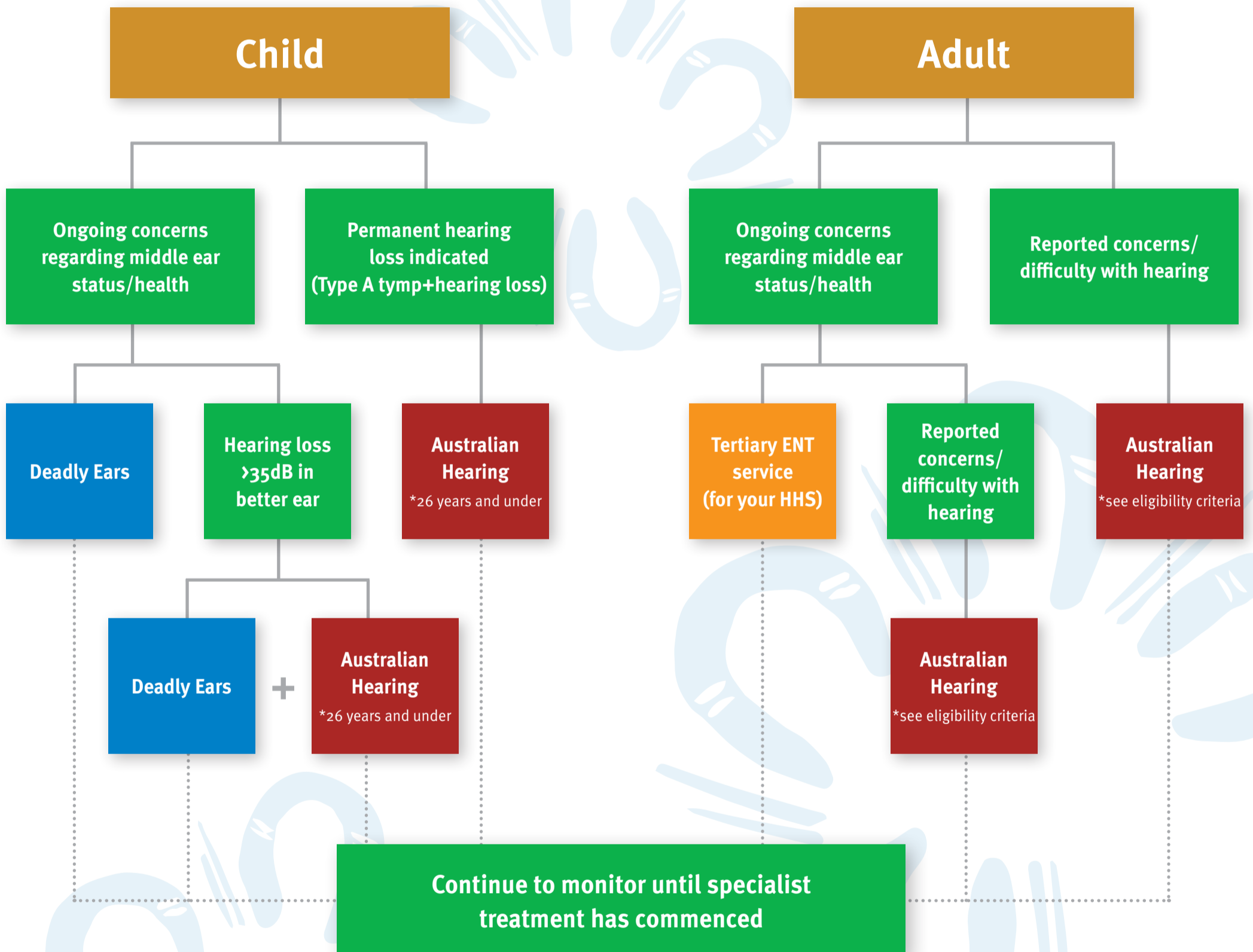


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander WHO HOW guide

Who and how to refer into specialist ear and hearing services

To be used for:

1. Adults and children who continue to have ongoing/chronic (>3 months) middle ear pathology despite primary health management as per the otitis media guidelines/ear and hearing flowchart/PCCM /chronic conditions manual.
2. Adults and children where a permanent hearing loss (hearing screening results/diagnostic audiology show normal middle ear function in addition to a hearing loss) is of concern.



* Please also consider additional referrals in the presence of speech / language and development delays.

* If your continued concerns for a patient are not ear and hearing health related, but require ENT assessment, please refer to the nearest tertiary ENT service.

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Primary Health

Primary Health should be the first point of call if there are ear or hearing concerns.

Roles and responsibilities

- Education and prevention of otitis media.
- Initial identification through routine and opportunistic ear and hearing checks and school screening programs.
- Medical management and review prior to referral to tertiary or specialised services (ear and hearing health flowchart).
- Onward referral into appropriate specialist services.

Tertiary ENT service (for your Hospital and Health Service)	Deadly Ears	Australian Hearing
<p>Primary referral destination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander whose ear and hearing health issues are outside the scope of Deadly Ears.</p>	<p>Deadly Ears provides a nurse-led ear and hearing health specialist outreach service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.</p>	<p>Australian Hearing is a rehabilitation service, supporting children and their families, and eligible adults with diagnosed hearing loss.</p>
<p>Roles and responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage referrals of adults requiring ENT specialist review. • Triage of referrals of children outside of Deadly Ears scope of practice. • Advise and direct on clinical pathways between hospitals/healthcare settings. 	<p>Roles and responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage, accept and decline referrals into the Deadly Ears outreach service. • Provision of ear and hearing health specialist outreach clinics and surgery (to partner communities). • Provision of advice and pathways for treatment and management of children. • Liaise with GPs and healthcare teams around ear and hearing health management. • Promotion of the use of best practise guidelines for management of ear and hearing health. • Provision of telehealth services. 	<p>Roles and responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of hearing aids and other devices to children and eligible adults when appropriate. • Ongoing rehabilitation and support • Repairs, batteries and maintenance of hearing aids and devices. <p>Medical referrals are not required and no application forms. Call 131 797 to arrange referral or talk with your visiting Australian Hearing audiologist.</p> <p>For further information, see who, when and how to refer to Australian Hearing: Information for Health Services in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p>
<p>How to refer</p> <p>Follow the Queensland Health clinical prioritisation criteria</p> <p>www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/referrals/clinical-prioritisation</p>	<p>How to refer</p> <p>Visit the Deadly Ears website</p> <p>www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/chq/our-services/community-health-services/deadly-ears/ent-outreach-referrals/</p>	<p>How to refer</p> <p>www.hearing.com.au/who-when-and-how-to-refer-to-australian-hearing/</p>